

Message Text

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S E C R E T LONDON 05121

NODIS

DEPT PASS PRESIDENT'S PARTY
FOR THE SECRETARY FROM CHRISTOPHER
DEPT FOR TARNOFF

E.O. LL652: XGDS-L
TAGS: NATO, UK
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN

1. AT BREAKFAST TODAY WITH DAVID OWEN AND HIS SENIOR COLLEAGUES, WE DISCUSSED THE USUAL ARRAY OF PROBLEMS (EVERYTHING BUT BELIZE, BREWSTER SAID.) AFTERWARD, I MET WITH OWEN, WITH ONLY BREWSTER IN ATTENDANCE, TO DISCUSS THE PRESIDENT'S STRONG INCLINATION AGAINST PRODUCTION OF ERW. I ALSO BRIEFED OWEN ON MY TALKS WITH GENSCHER AND SCHMIDT. OWEN WILL REPORT TO CALLAGHAN.

2. AS YOU KNOW, OWEN IS SYMPATHETIC TO THE PRESIDENT'S INCLINATION ON THE MERITS. HOWEVER, HE BELIEVES WE HAVE PRESENTATIONAL PROBLEMS OF MAJOR PROPORTIONS, WITH HIGH RISKS FOR THE PRESIDENT. HIS INITIAL SUGGESTION WAS THAT THE DECISION BE ANNOUNCED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF A CARTER-BREZHNEV SUMMIT. WHEN I OUTLINED PROBLEMS WITH SUCH AN APPROACH, HE MOVED TO THE TACK THAT THE DECISION WOULD BE MOST CREDIBLE IF RELATED TO OVERALL ARMS CONTROL AND THAT THE THEME OF THE

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ANNOUNCEMENT SHOULD BE THAT ERW SHOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO INTERFERE WITH PROGRESS ON THREE MAJOR ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS ON WHICH SOLID PROGRESS IS BEING MADE (SALT CTB, AND MBFR.)

3. I TOLD HIM THAT THE ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD BE GIVEN THE HIGHEST ATTENTION AND WE VALUE THE UK'S SUGGESTIONS, JUST AS WE HAVE ENORMOUSLY APPRECIATED THEIR STEADFAST

SUPPORT THROUGHOUT CONSIDERATION OF THIS ISSUE.

4. OWEN, LATER JOINED BY MICHAEL PALLISER, STRESSED THE NEED TO PREPARE THE INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC U.S. MILITARY ESTABLISHMENTS. I SAID THAT GENERAL HAIG HAS NOT YET BEEN BRIEFED AS FAR AS I KNOW.

5. AT THE END, OWEN ASSURED ME THAT IN THE ROUGH WEATHER AHEAD, THE US WOULD HAVE UK SUPPORT IN THIS MATTER.

6. I AM LEAVING FOR THE AIRPORT AND WILL BE REPORTING ON OTHER ASPECTS OF THE CONVERSATION AS WELL AS PROVIDING OTHER COMMENTS ON ERW WHEN I RETURN TO WASHINGTON.

BREWSTER

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NNN

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